

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A hockey stick shaft comprising:  
an elongated body having opposed first and second end, said body comprising  
an inner constraining element having opposed first and second major wall components  
~~component~~ spacing apart opposed third and fourth major wall components, said first and second  
major wall components being wider than said third and fourth major wall components, said inner  
constraining element providing the structural strength of the shaft,  
said first and second major wall components comprising first and second flat side  
surfaces disposed on the exterior thereof, said third and fourth major wall components  
comprising third and fourth flat side surfaces disposed on the exterior thereof,  
said first, second, third and fourth side surfaces each being overlaid with a layer of  
viscoelastic material along said inner constraining structural element, the thickness of said  
viscoelastic material on at least two of said first, second, third and fourth side surfaces being  
thicker than on said remaining side surfaces,  
said body further comprising a protective element comprising opposed first and second  
thin-shelled components spacing apart opposed third and fourth thin-shelled components,  
said protective element being disposed on said layer of viscoelastic material,

wherein said viscoelastic material being of a sufficient thickness to provide protection to said inner constraining structural element from impacts applied to said protective non-structural element.

24. (Previously Presented) The hockey stick shaft of claim 23 wherein said at least two of said thicker first, second, third and fourth side surfaces are adjacent to each other.

25. (Previously Presented) The hockey stick shaft of claim 23 wherein said at least two of said thicker first, second, third and fourth side surfaces are opposed to each other.

26. (Currently amended) The hockey stick shaft of claim 23 wherein said inner constraining structural element comprises fibers disposed in a matrix material.

27. (Currently amended) The hockey stick shaft of claim 23 wherein said protective non-structural element comprises fibers disposed in a matrix material.

28. (Previously Presented) The hockey stick shaft of claim 23 wherein said viscoelastic layer is selected from a group comprising thermoplastic rubber modified adhesive, polyester, urethane, polyurethane, mylar, teflon silicone and epoxy films.

29. (Previously Presented) The hockey stick shaft of claim 28 wherein said viscoelastic layer is disposed from a point adjacent said first end to a point adjacent said second end.

30. (Previously Presented) The hockey stick shaft of claim 28 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness in the range of about 5 to 25 thousands of an inch.

31. (Previously Presented) The hockey stick shaft of claim 30 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness in the range of about 10 to 22.5 thousands of an inch.

32. (Previously Presented) The hockey stick shaft of claim 31 wherein said viscoelastic layer has a thickness of about 20 thousands of an inch.

33-43 (Canceled)